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R W
(REAGAN)
(BY HELEN THOMAS)

LOS ANGELES (UPI) -- UNDERLINING RONALD REAGAN'S GENERALLY LAID-BACK TRANSITION TO THE PRESIDENCY IS THIS DAILY SCENE:

EACH MORNING AN UNASSUMING GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT TRUDGES UP THE DRIVE TO A HILLTOP HOME OVERLOOKING THE PACIFIC OCEAN WITH A FAT, BLACK BRIEFING BOOK UNDER HIS ARM.

THE MAN IS A CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL AND HIS JOB IS TO BRIEF REAGAN ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE IRAQI-IRAN WAR, THE SOVIET TROOPS POISED ON POLAND'S BORDER AND OTHER CRISES THAT WILL BE IN HIS LAP IN 46 DAYS.

THE SETTING IS A SHARP CONTRAST TO WHAT REAGAN WILL FACE IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN AIDES IN THE 24-HOUR SITUATION ROOM ALERT HIM TO THE LATEST CRISES AT ANY HOUR.

BUT THE LONE CIA BRIEFER FITS IN WITH WHAT IS A DEFINITELY LAID-BACK TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THE FUTURE PRESIDENT FROM CALIFORNIA.

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, REAGAN HAS VISITED HIS DENTIST, SAT FOR A SCULPTOR WORKING ON A BRONZE INAUGURAL MEDALLION AND STAYED GENERALLY OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE.

ACCORDING TO HIS WEST COAST SPOKESMAN, JOE HOLMES, REAGAN HAS BEEN ON THE TELEPHONE "HAVING CONVERSATIONS" WITH POTENTIAL CABINET APPOINTMENTS. HE ALSO IS DEVOTING MANY HOURS TO PERSONALLY ANSWERING THE STACKS OF CONGRATULATORY MAIL FROM WORLD LEADERS, OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FANS.

NEWS SERVICE PHOTOGRAPHERS SAID THEY SAW A LARGE AMOUNT OF PAPERWORK WHEN THEY WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE PICTURES OF REAGAN YESTERDAY WORKING AT HIS DESK IN HIS BEDROOM STUDY. HE WORE A RED PLAID SHIRT, SLACKS AND ON THE DESK WERE TWO BOOKS: "THE REAL WAR" BY FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON AND "INAUGURAL ADDRESSES OF PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD NIXON."

FOR THREE NIGHTS IN A ROW, REAGAN AND HIS WIFE HAVE ATTENDED FORMAL DINNER PARTIES HOSTED BY MULTIMILLIONAIRE CALIFORNIA FRIENDS WITH MANY OF THE GUESTS, INCLUDING TV STAR JOHNNY CARSON, ARRIVING BY ROLLS-ROYCE AUTOMOBILES.

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